



## 100 YEAR CELEBRATION

In 2016, the North Carolina state parks system celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We're commemorating North Carolina plans to celebrate the state parks system's centennial throughout the year with a series of special events, festivals and a myriad of other fun and entertaining activities.

Your state parks connect us all with our rich natural heritage and our history and contribute significantly to the economy of the state. The Centennial Celebration is a premier opportunity to recognize the visionary leaders of our state who set the wheels in motion to create a parks system which has grown to 225,000 acres and delights more than 15.6 million visitors each year.

The General Assembly authorized the purchase of land for a state park at Mount Mitchell on March 3, 1915, and 795 acres on the summit were acquired by the end of 1916, which firmly established the first state park in the southeastern United States. North Carolina set a standard for the nation in protecting its natural resources. The state parks centennial in 2016 is an opportunity for all North Carolinians to renew a shared commitment of stewardship of those resources.

Today, your state parks protect North Carolina's natural heritage, educate citizens about how to be responsible environmental stewards and offer a wealth of recreational opportunities for enjoyment and health benefits. Please visit one or more in 2016. We're sure you will find them to be Naturally Wonderful!



NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS

Naturally Wonderful



Roy Cooper Governor

,000 copies of this public document were printed



## OUR MISSION

The North Carolina State Parks System exists for the enjoyment, education, health and inspiration of all our citizens and visitors.

The mission of the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation is:

- to protect North Carolina's natural diversity;
- to provide and promote outdoor recreation opportunities throughout North Carolina; and,
- to exemplify and encourage good stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources for all citizens and visitors in North Carolina.

The North Carolina parks system's Website gives complete information on each of our parks as well as programs of the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. You'll find maps that can be downloaded plus details on park facilities, fees, reservations and special outdoor activities such as cycling, kayaking and rock climbing. Contact information for each park is provided as well as an up-to-date calendar of educational programs and special events. Check it out before your visit at www.ncparks.gov.

We also offer specialized brochures for many of our parks. These brochures include park maps and describe facilities in detail as well as the unique natural and historic aspects of the park. Just contact the park office or our Raleigh office at 919-707-9300, or email us at parkinfo@ncmail.net.





























## **ABOUT OUR PARKS...**

In North Carolina, we like to call our state parks "Naturally Wonderful." For us, this is more than a catch phrase. It indicates how we develop and manage our state parks and recreation areas.

It has to do with our mission statement on the facing page, which, in turn, evolved from our state's Constitution. Our principal mission is to preserve and protect the stunning natural resources in North Carolina. The Division strives to balance the protection of the more than 225,000 acres of parkland in our system while providing high quality outdoor recreation. We have developed these parks cautiously with this idea in mind. While there are myriad recreational opportunities, our mission demands relatively low-impact activities. We have been careful to arrange campgrounds and park amenities to complement, rather than compete with the natural features that attract so many visitors.

While visiting our state parks, you'll find that fees for camping, swimming and other park activities are very reasonable. Early on, the people of North Carolina decided that the state's array of natural treasures should be enjoyed by as many as possible. Enjoy your exploration of North Carolina's state parks.

Please visit our Website for a complete list of new parks under development and other types of units, including our 20 state natural areas.





There are so many ways you can support our state parks:

- Do you have some extra time to help us with a project? Visit our website for information about volunteering at a park.
- Visit our web store to see our full line of merchandise—we have everything from Christmas ornaments to coffee mugs. Celebrate our 2016 Centennial by purchasing commemorative NC State Parks 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary merchandise. These items are great gifts for that special state parks fan, including yourself. www.ncparkstore.com
- Join the Friends of State Parks to help support, promote, and advocate for the parks system as a whole, or join the friends group of your favorite park. www.fsp.org
- Keep the parks around for the next generation. Make a donation at www.fsp.org/Donate
- Show your support for North Carolina State Parks all year around by buying a State Parks License Plate. Contact the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles to purchase a plate. www.ncdot.org/dmv/ Additional fees support the Friends of State Parks.







## RESERVATIONS

A full-service, online- and call center-based reservations system can be used to reserve campsites, cabins, picnic shelters, auditoriums, classrooms, conference rooms and community buildings. Where reservations are offered, there are requirements for advance notice and minimum and maximum stays.



NCPARKS.GOV 1-877-7-CAMP-NC (1-877-722-6762)

Park gates may be locked each night when the park closes. So, make sure you understand the gate policies at the park and plan accordingly when arranging your arrival time and when making daytime excursions outside the park.



# PARKS & RECREATION TRUST FUND

The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) helps enhance the quality of life for North Carolinians by preserving the state's natural resources, buying parkland and building public recreation facilities. PARTF has conserved more than 40,000 acres of state parkland and developed new visitor centers, campgrounds, improved trails, swim areas and educational exhibits for our citizens. The trust fund is the primary funding source for adding to and improving state parks.

PARTF also provides matching grants for local governments to improve close-to-home recreation opportunities. Visit the trust fund's Website at www.ncparks.gov/partf

## **EDUCATION & KIDS**

Did you know that many plants atop Mount Mitchell are rare in North Carolina, but common in Quebec? Did you know that the giant sand dunes at Jockey's Ridge are constantly moving? Do you know how to safely hold a crayfish? Interpretation & Education programs help reveal what makes North Carolina state parks *Naturally Wonderful*.

#### Discover More with a Ranger

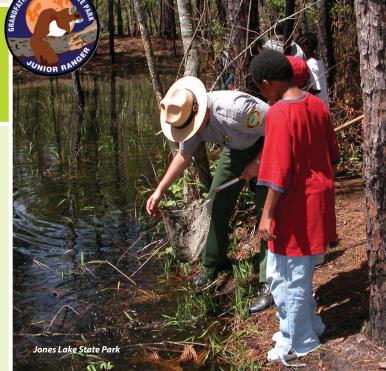
From fishing lessons to astronomy programs, from tree identification hikes to guided canoe paddles—parks offer programs for all ages. Visit our website for a list of upcoming programs.

#### **Junior Rangers**

Junior Ranger guides are geared for ages 6-12. Kids do fun activities and attend ranger programs to earn a special patch. Ask about the program at a park office or download the guide at **www.ncparks.gov.** 

### **Environmental Education Learning Experiences**

Parks have their own curriculum guides that tie science and social studies into hands-on field trips for schools. Many parks have exciting exhibit halls for self-guided discovery.





## TRAILS PROGRAM

The North Carolina Trails Program helps volunteers, nonprofit groups and government agencies plan, develop and manage greenways, routes for hiking, biking and horseback riding, as well as water trails and off-road vehicle trails. The program administers the federal Recreational Trails Program, which provides grants to non-profit organizations and governmental agencies for a variety of trail projects.

#### www.ncparks.gov/trails

The trails program is also planning, promoting and developing a system of trails across North Carolina and the flagship trail for this statewide effort is North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea State Trail. The trail will connect Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Jockey's Ridge State Park when complete, a distance of some 1.000 miles.



## **RULES & SAFETY**

We're serious about safety. Follow these tips and rules to make your visit to North Carolina's state parks a safe and rewarding experience. Check with the park office for other rules pertaining to specific parks. A complete set of regulations is posted at the park office.

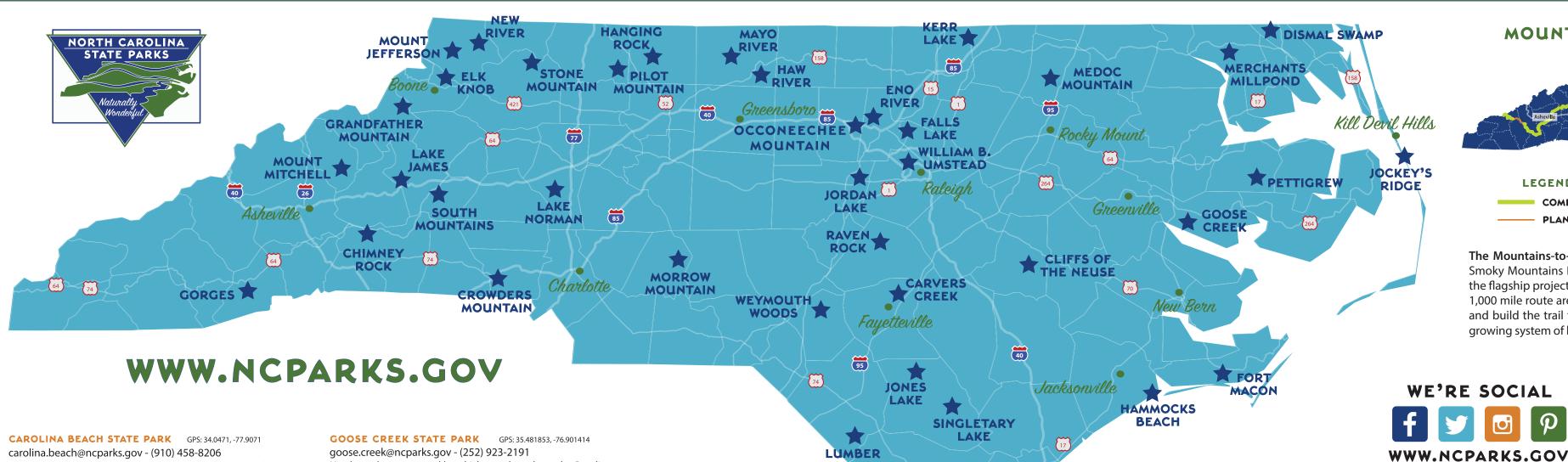
- Park speed limits are 25 mph unless otherwise posted. Watch for pedestrians, bicyclists and wildlife.
- Don't swim alone or exceed your swimming abilities.
- Supervise children at all times and equip them with personal flotation devices when playing around water.
- Dress properly. Check with park staff regarding weather and terrain.
- Make your plans known to park staff and family members should you plan a long hike.
- Allow plenty of time for hikes as daylight hours shorten so you won't be caught by darkness.
- Stay on designated trails and away from streams, waterfalls and cliff faces.
- Feeding wildlife is prohibited. Animals can be dangerous and carry disease. Report unusual behavior to park staff.
- The removal of any plant, animal, rock or artifact is prohibited.
- Areas managed by North Carolina State Parks are wildlife preserves. Hunting or trapping is prohibited.
- Pets must be on an attended leash six feet or less. Pets aren't allowed in public buildings, bathhouses or swimming areas.
- Boating and fishing regulations of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission are enforced. Appropriate licenses for freshwater, saltwater and trout fishing are required.
- Firearms and other weapons are prohibited except that those with a proper permit may possess a concealed handgun in permitted areas & under the requirements of North Carolina G.S. 14-415.11. All firearms and weapons are prohibited in state park visitor centers and offices. Persons acting under this exception should take notice that certain Division managed properties are owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and subject to separate regulations governing firearms. Accordingly, concealed handguns are prohibited at Falls, Jordan and Kerr Lake State Recreation Areas.
- Fires are permitted in designated areas only.
- Camping is permitted in designated areas, by permit only.
- The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- Swimming is permitted in designated areas only.



When you have finished with this publication, help save our earth by sharing it with a friend, returning it to the park or recycling it.

## NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS & RECREATION

LAKE



carolina.beach@ncparks.gov - (910) 458-8206 Diverse coastal ecological communities support rare plants, including Venus flytrap.

**CARVERS CREEK STATE PARK** GPS: 35.203439, -78.9767398 carvers.creek@ncparks.gov - (910) 436-4681 Diverse habitats, 100-acre millpond, picnic areas, historic buildings from the James S. Rockefeller's Long Valley Farm, bank fishing, and a lovely boardwalk extending 90 feet into the cypress trees of the millpond.

CHIMNEY ROCK STATE PARK GPS: 35.432799, -82.250260 chimney.rock@ncparks.gov - (828) 625-1823 Spectacular vistas of Hickory Nut Gorge. Historic tourist destination, 26-story elevator, 404-foot waterfall, over 6,000 acres, rock climbing and bouldering. Admission.

CLIFFS OF THE NEUSE STATE PARK GPS: 35.2354, -77.8932 cliffs.neuse@ncparks.gov - (919) 778-6234

Multicolored cliffs up to 98 feet tower over historic river. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea Paddle Trail. Swim lake open during

CROWDERS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK GPS: 35.2127, -81.3006 crowders.mountain@ncparks.gov – (704) 853-5375 Two of the highest peaks in Kings Mountain Range, 20-mile views, streams and lake environments.

## DISMAL SWAMP STATE PARK GPS: 36.5057, -76.3551

center and museum.

skiing or snowshoeing.

dismal.swamp@ncparks.gov – (252) 771-6593 More than 20 miles of hiking and biking trails on 14,000 acres of the historic Great Dismal Swamp. Wetland habitat and wildlife viewing on half-mile boardwalk. Kayak/canoe/

bike rental. Underground Railroad historic designation. Visitor

**ELK KNOB STATE PARK** GPS: 36.332586, -81.69064 elk.knob@ncparks.gov - (828) 297-7261 Scenic vistas from more than 5,500 feet in elevation with rare and unique plant communities. Enjoy a picnic after a rugged hike to the summit. Visit on a snowy day to enjoy cross-country

ENO RIVER STATE PARK GPS: 36.0783, -79.0050 eno.river@ncparks.gov - (919) 383-1686 Scenic wilderness corridor encompasses 14 miles of river, multiple cultural history sites, and an extensive trail system.

Part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail. FALLS LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA GPS: 36.0117, -78.6888

falls.lake@ncparks.gov - (919) 676-1027 Expansive reservoir and woodlands, habitat for diversity of animals, including American bald eagles. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.

FORT FISHER STATE RECREATION AREA GPS: 33.9534, -77.929 fort.fisher@ncparks.gov - (910) 458-5798

Barrier island between Cape Fear River and Atlantic Ocean is home to rare and endangered coastal birds and sea turtles.

**FORT MACON STATE PARK** GPS: 34.696951, -76.677728 fort.macon@ncparks.gov - (252) 726-3775 Restored historic fort that played a key role in Civil War, barrier island beach. Fort tours, Civil War reenactments or enjoy the beautiful beach.

goose.creek@ncparks.gov - (252) 923-2191 Hardwood swamps and brackish marshes along the Pamlico River, oaks draped in Spanish moss.

GORGES STATE PARK GPS: 35.1133, -82.9563

gorges@ncparks.gov - (828) 966-9099 An 8,000-acre park on the Blue Ridge Escarpment with waterfalls, gorges and dramatic elevation changes provide for a concentration of rare and unique plant and animal species. A LEED-certified visitor center with exhibits, large picnic shelters with fireplaces, hiking trails, observation decks and primitive backcountry camping.

#### GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN STATE PARK GPS: Hwy 105 S 36.121990, -81.829993 Blue Ridge Parkway 36.120076, -81.781358

grandfather.mountain@ncparks.gov – (828) 963-9522 12 miles of rugged, scenic trails with magnificent views from rock outcrops and forested coves; highest peak at 5,946 feet. Home to over 70 rare/endangered species and 16 distinct natural communities. Adjacent to the private Grandfather Mountain attraction.

HAMMOCKS BEACH STATE PARK GPS: 34.67261,-77.13945

hammocks.beach@ncparks.gov - (910) 326-4881 On mainland and islands; park operates a seasonal passenger ferry to ocean beach, maritime forests, salt marshes, tidal creeks. Sea turtle nesting site.

HANGING ROCK STATE PARK GPS: 36.411906, -80.254122 hanging.rock@ncparks.gov - (336) 593-8480 Rock outcrops at elevations up to 2,580 feet, five waterfalls, mountain lake, access to scenic river. Part of the Mountains-to-

HAW RIVER STATE PARK GPS: 36 250646 -79 756364

haw.river@ncparks.gov - (336) 342-6163 The Summit Environmental Education and Conference Center provides training facilities, environmental education opportunities and overnight accommodations.

JOCKEY'S RIDGE STATE PARK GPS: 35.9642, -75.6330 jockeys.ridge@ncparks.gov – (252) 441-7132 Tallest living sand dune along U.S. Atlantic coast, barrier island ecology. Stroll along the sound or hang glide from a dune. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.

JONES LAKE STATE PARK GPS: 34.682743, -78.595423 jones.lake@ncparks.gov - (910) 588-4550 Carolina bay environment, five-mile hiking trail through diverse habitats with lake overlooks.

JORDAN LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA GPS: 35.7369, -79.0169 jordan.lake@ncparks.gov - (919) 362-0586

13,900-acre reservoir, home to American bald eagles. Several areas for day-use or overnight recreation.

KERR LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA GPS: 36.4411, -78.3688 kerr.lake@ncparks.gov – (252) 438-7791

50,000-acre reservoir with 800 miles of shoreline spanning North Carolina/Virginia state line.

**LAKE JAMES STATE PARK** GPS: 35.750378, -81.892075 lake.james@ncparks.gov - (828) 584-7728 Vistas of surrounding Black Mountains overlooking manmade 6,812-acre lake. Take advantage of the many recreation oppotunities this lake has to offer.

LAKE NORMAN STATE PARK GPS: 35.672548, -80.932500 lake.norman@ncparks.gov - (704) 528-6350 State's largest manmade lake at 32,510 acres. More than 30 miles of biking trails.

LAKE WACCAMAW STATE PARK GPS: 34.278985, -78.465485 lake.waccamaw@ncparks.gov - (910) 646-4748 One of the largest Carolina bays with unique plants and animals, including alligators.

#### LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK

GPS: Princess Ann 34.390023, -79.002225 Chalks Bank 34.8987, -79.3549 lumber.river@ncparks.gov - (910) 628-4564 State Nature & Scenic and National Wild & Scenic 115 miles blackwater river. Enjoy Griffin's Whirl, a unique reverse flow area.

MAYO RIVER STATE PARK GPS: 36.438800, -79.938171 mayo.river@ncparks.gov - (336) 427-2530 A visitor's center, hiking trails, picnic tables and a picnic shelter are situated near two fishing ponds. Call the park office for updates on new facilities.

MEDOC MOUNTAIN STATE PARK GPS: 36.2639, -77.8883 medoc.mountain@ncparks.gov - (252) 586-6588 Exposed rock outcrops, bluffs, steep topography, rocks, minerals unusual to piedmont.

MERCHANTS MILLPOND STATE PARK GPS: 36.437105, -76.701585 merchants.millpond@ncparks.gov – (252) 357-1191 Maze of towering bald cypress trees draped in Spanish moss dominates millpond and adjacent swamp. Rent a canoe/ kayak to explore the millpond.

MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK GPS: 35.373724, -80.073477 morrow.mountain@ncparks.gov – (704) 982-4402 Mountains up to 936 feet, peaceful lake. These pinnacles are the remains of one of the oldest mountain ranges in the

#### MOUNT JEFFERSON STATE NATURAL AREA GPS: 36.397660, -81.473466

mount.jefferson@ncparks.gov - (336) 246-9653 Panoramic views from scenic Blue Ridge mountaintop at 4,683-foot elevation. National Natural Landmark.

MOUNT MITCHELL STATE PARK GPS: 35.7528, -82.2737 mount.mitchell@ncparks.gov – (828) 675-4611 Highest peak east of the Mississippi at 6,684 feet, views up to 100 miles, North Carolina's first state park. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.

NEW RIVER STATE PARK GPS: 36.467680, -81.340350 new.river@ncparks.gov – (336) 982-2587 Nationally designated Wild and Scenic and American Heritage River. It offers canoeing and hiking past scenic rock outcrops, farmlands and woodlands.

#### OCCONEECHEE MOUNTAIN STATE NATURAL AREA GPS: 36.060835, -79.116900

**CAROLINA** 

FORT FISHER

eno.river@ncparks.gov - (919) 383-1686 Over three miles of trail circle around the highest point in Orange County, providing beautiful views of the mountain and the Eno River.

**PETTIGREW STATE PARK** GPS: 35.4732.03, -76.2434.17 pettigrew@ncparks.gov - (252) 797-4475 Second-largest natural lake in state, old-growth trees, American Indian artifacts including second-oldest dugout canoe in U.S., plantation historic site and grave of Confederate general.

**PILOT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK** GPS: 36.341276, -80.462938 pilot.mountain@ncparks.gov - (336) 325-2355 National Natural Landmark offering scenic vistas of Blue Ridge mountains. Canoe the Yadkin River as it flows for two miles through the park.

RAVEN ROCK STATE PARK GPS: 35.4597, -78.9127 raven.rock@ncparks.gov – (910) 893-4888 Landmark bluff that stretches 150-foot-high and more than a mile along the Cape Fear River.

SINGLETARY LAKE STATE PARK GPS: 34.5831, -78.4496 singletary.lake@ncparks.gov – (910) 669-2928 Carolina bay environment, scenic lake vistas, undeveloped

SOUTH MOUNTAINS STATE PARK GPS: 35.5963, -81.6000 south.mountains@ncparks.gov – (828) 433-4772 Mountain peaks to 3,000 feet, 80-foot waterfall. Parts of the park were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

**STONE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK** GPS: 36.3873, -81.0273 stone.mountain@ncparks.gov – (336) 957-8185 Rock dome rising 600 feet above the valley floor, waterfalls, mid-19th century homestead, Blue Ridge mountain views. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.

#### WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE GPS: 35.1469, -79.3690

weymouth.woods@ncparks.gov – (910) 692-2167 Longleaf pine forest; broad, flat valleys; rare and endangered species include red-cockaded woodpecker, pine barrens tree frog, bog spicebush.

WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD STATE PARK GPS: 35.8905, -78.7502 william.umstead@ncparks.gov - (919) 571-4170 More than 5,000 acres of hardwood forest in urban Triangle region including creeks, lakes and extensive trail network with scenic overlooks.

MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA STATE TRAIL



The Mountains-to-Sea State Trail, an effort to link Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Jockey's Ridge State Park on the Outer Banks, is the flagship project of the North Carolina Trails Program. Today, over 600 miles of the 1,000 mile route are open for use. Partners across North Carolina are helping to plan and build the trail to link communities together and to serve as the backbone of a growing system of land and water trails. Visit www.ncparks.gov for more information.



Activities & Amenities in State Parks CAROLINA BEACH **CARVERS CREEK CHIMNEY ROCK CLIFFS OF THE NEUSE** CROWDERS MOUNTAIN DISMAL SWAMP **ELK KNOB ENO RIVER FALLS LAKE FORT FISHER** FORT MACON **GOOSE CREEK** GORGES GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HAMMOCKS BEACH HANGING ROCK HAW RIVER JOCKEY'S RIDGE **JONES LAKE** JORDAN LAKE KERR LAKE LAKE JAMES LAKE NORMAN LAKE WACCAMAW LUMBER RIVER MAYO RIVER MEDOC MOUNTAIN MERCHANTS MILLPOND MORROW MOUNTAIN MOUNT JEFFERSON MOUNT MITCHELL NEW RIVER OCCONEECHEE MOUNTAIN **PETTIGREW** PILOT MOUNTAIN **RAVEN ROCK** SINGLETARY LAKE SOUTH MOUNTAINS STONE MOUNTAIN **WEYMOUTH WOODS** WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD Motors 10-horsepower or less © Electric and water hookups